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LETTER DATED 16 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of 15 December 1998 on a number of incidents on the Yugoslav-Albanian border provoked from the territory of the Republic of Albania. I would be very grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Statememt issued by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia on 15 December 1998

Following several incidents on the border with Albania, which occurred between 5 and 14 December 1998, the Albanian Chargé d'affaires a.i. in Belgrade, Florian Nova, was invited today to the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which lodged the strongest protest.

A particularly grave incident took place on 14 December 1998, when in the area of the security post Liken on Mount Pastrik, in the early morning hours, sabotage and terrorists groups numbering hundreds of terrorists attempted on three occasions to cross over from Albania. Members of these groups wore uniforms made in Germany and were armed with the most sophisticated automatic weapons, also made in Germany. They even had air defence equipment. After being warned to stop, the terrorists fired at the guards securing the state border, who reacted in accordance with their duty and killed 30 and wounded 12 terrorists. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Verification Mission based in Prizren was informed about this incident, and representatives came to the scene.

Large quantities of weapons, uniforms and other matériel have now been uncovered on site. The competent authorities are continuing with their investigation and search of the area.

Earlier incidents and attacks by groups of terrorists occurred in the areas of the posts secured by the units Djakovica and Ulcinj-Zoganj, where on 11 December a group of six persons were arrested trying to transport 30 kilos of narcotic drugs.

In all of these incidents, no harm was done to the border authorities of the Yugoslav Army.

Since the signing of the agreement between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and OSCE on 16 October 1998, a total of 16 border incidents, including the above, have been committed. These incidents represent direct support to terrorists and separatists, and they are aimed at causing tension and preventing peaceful political settlement in Kosovo and Metohija. They also once again clearly demonstrate that Albania hosts terrorists and has become a base for arming, training and systematically infiltrating them into Yugoslavia. The latest incidents show that Albania has violated the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1160 (1998), in which the Albanian side was called upon to stop the infiltration of terrorists, arms and terrorist equipment from inside Albania. In view of the fact that these activities have been undertaken from the territory of Albania, the Albanian side bears full responsibility for them.

The protest lodged by the Foreign Ministry points out that the continuation of these dangerous activities directly threatens the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; they breach the principles

enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and other basic norms in relations between sovereign States.

The latest protest once again strongly called upon the Government of Albania to strictly comply with its international obligations and to prevent the systematic violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country from inside Albania.

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